



## **Meeting Notes for the Steering Committee Meeting July 20, 2022**

The meeting was held in person at the ODOT District 11 conference room with appropriate safety precautions available, and was called to order at 9:04 am by Deborah Hill, OMEGA Regional Transit Planner. Meeting housekeeping rules were shared, and the meeting was recorded only for the purpose of obtaining minutes. The agenda was presented and attendance, by roll call, was taken. 23 were in attendance, 19 in person and 4 virtually.

Macie Moore, ODOT, gave a brief update on the status of 5310 and 5311 funding award announcements. All applications and ODOT recommendations have been given to the review committee and award announcements are expected by the end of July or early August.

Following, Chuck Dyer, ODOT, Office of Transit and Marie Keister, Murphy Epsom, presented the Mobility Ohio Pilot Project. Mobility Ohio is a \$3.5 Million dollar pilot project that will be executed in Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Muskingum, and Guernsey counties with the goal of creating efficiencies in transportation services through coordination of major transportation funding agencies at the state level. The project is funded through the FTA (\$2.8 Million) with additional funds through ODOT (\$0.7 Million). The project seeks to deliver more trips using the same dollars that are currently expended by creating a Regional Transportation Resource Center (RTRC) that would accept calls and schedule trips for the health and human service trips in the four-county pilot region. ODOT will provide direct oversight of the RTRC. The funds awarded for this project are NOT for providers for transportation services but are for the technical development and procedural administration needed to develop the pilot. The pilot is anticipated to begin in January of 2024 and is a two-year project. The ODOT presentation slides may be found on the OMEGA website and additional information may be found at [www.MobilityOhio.com](http://www.MobilityOhio.com). Details of the pilot project have not yet been finalized however the Mobility Ohio project will become a standing agenda item for the Steering Committee going forward so that accurate information can be shared with stakeholders in the region and so that regional input may be obtained. Further questions may be directed to Macie Moore at [Macie.Moore@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:Macie.Moore@dot.ohio.gov).

In regional updates, Ms. Hill announced that major trip generators were due by the end of the month and that Origin-Destination data for CY2021 will be requested in August. These requests are in anticipation and preparation for the revision of the regional coordinated plan which is slated to take place next year pending ODOT guidance.

The meeting schedule for the remainder of the year was presented. The August Steering meeting will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> at ODOT District 11 offices at 9am. In September there will be a combined Steering/RCC meeting which will be hosted in Coshocton at Roscoe Village with the presentation topic "Insurance and Medicaid". Final meetings for the year will be held October 19 and November 16. There will not be a December meeting unless it is necessary.

In the open roundtable for the good of the region, the FTA published a [notice](#) in the Federal Register seeking comment on a proposed Buy America Waiver for transit vans and minivans. Under FTA's proposal, FTA would grant a partial Buy America waiver of limited duration for transit agencies to procure mass-produced, **unmodified non-ADA accessible passenger vans and minivans**. FTA is requesting public and industry comment on whether to grant the waiver as proposed, or in a modified form. FTA is proposing that this partial waiver would expire after two years, or when a compliant vehicle becomes available, whichever is first.

Comment is requested by August 3, 2022 and OMEGA sent email to all Steering Committee members with a direct link to provide comment.

Hearing no further questions or announcements, ODOT was thanked for their time and attendance in person at the meeting as were the valued Steering members. The meeting adjourned at 10:36am.